

Winter, 2006

Board Business

At the SRCAF Board of Directors meeting, Dec. 7, discussion of the draft Good Neighbor Policy produced direction and a schedule for the possible adoption of the Policy in March.

Francis Piccola, Chief of the Water Resources Branch, Sacramento District Corps of Engineers, gave an update on the Hamilton City Levee and Restoration Project. Because of the advance of State funds, much of the Preliminary Engineering and Design detailed evaluations are in progress. The local Levee District has been created and is in the process of planning and informing residents of the project. The SRCAF will continue to facilitate the Workgroup meetings as needed.

Barge Hole Rocks

The SRCAF first discussed Barge Hole River Access (RM271) at the TAC in September. Illegal dumping of cars, appliances, furniture, and trash as well as illegal camping and 4X4 misuse had Tehama County Supervisors suggesting closure of this popular river access.

Through coordination by SRCAF, several agencies and organizations conducted a massive clean-up in November. Huge boulders were placed along the access road to deter off-road activity that has damaged the riparian habitat. Now work is being done to determine how to stop



Before: DeWayne Little, Dept. of Fish and Game, points out one of the larger, illegal, camping residences that was found at Barge Hole in Tehama County. Misuse of the State Lands Commission's property was prevalent.

The SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy, gave an update on the investigations to find a workable solution to provide water for those that rely on the M&T/Llano Seco Ranch Pump Plant. Permitting is moving forward for interim solutions as a long term plan is being developed. Burt also reported on the very successful recreation planning process for the State Parks Colusa Recreation Area that is part of Colusa Subreach Planning conducted by TNC and the SRCAF.

The TAC Report included a discussion of recent project reviews and an update on the Barge Hole cleanup, facilitated by the SRCAF through Beverley Anderson-Abbs.

The next Board meeting will be Jan. 18, 2007. New Board appointees will be introduced, officers elected, and a draft final GNP will be discussed.

the illegal activities while maintaining river access.

State Lands Commission, owner of the 50 acre property, has had difficulty managing the property from Sacramento headquarters, and enlisted the help of SRCAF, CDFG, BLM, Tehama Co. Landfill, and CDF to clean up the area. A management entity is being sought in order to help preserve the overhauled area.

The SRCAF thanks everyone involved in this collaborative effort and is monitoring the project closely. We will continue to keep the public informed as to the status of this important fishing and recreation site for Tehama County.



After: Clean-up took two days with a 15 man crew and lots of muscle. Ninety tires (including a 700 lb. tractor tire) and 20 tons of garbage (including appliances and vehicles) were transported to Tehama County Red Bluff Landfill.



Technical Advisory Committee

October: A press release from F&WS Sacramento office reported that they have been instructed to look at the delisting of the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB). Such a process would take several years. VELB remains listed until there is an official announcement. The goal of restoration has been to provide habitat to endangered species. If a delisting of VELB occurs, it would be considered a success story along the Sacramento River corridor.

Although DFG cannot regulate private property, they reported that locked gates to public access areas (i.e., Rd. 48) are a result of some private property owners controlling who crosses their land for recreation; some are even charging fees. Definitive information is expected for public access rights along levees. Also, an either sex deer hunt is proposed to reduce the population of deer to an acceptable level. A season or boundaries have not been set.



Ajay Singh
TAC Chairman

Fish are jumpin'

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum supported and participated at the sixteenth Annual "Return of the Salmon Festival" at Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Many others also participated with information pertinent to natural resources issues.

Over 10,000 visitors were able to enjoy viewing large numbers of fall Chinook salmon returning to Battle Creek and the hatchery on October 21. The self guided tour allows visitors to observe and learn about spawning, egg incubation, juvenile rearing, and just have fun.

This year the audience was thrilled when a large salmon jumped out of a huge, walk-around aquarium. Kids donned paper fish hats, practiced casting skills, got to see Smokey the Bear, and inevitably got splashed while they watched and waited for the salmon to jump up the ladder. Adults, from all over the world, gathered information on recreation areas and the like. The festival has been a major event since 1991.



TNC provided a float tour from Irvine Finch boat launch to Phelan Island restoration area in October. The purpose of the tour was to foster informal discussions of Sacramento River restoration and management needs and issues. The group stopped for this photo at Sam Slough, a prime example of natural meander.

M&T/Llano Seco Fish Screen recommended alternatives are spur dikes/groins and dredging. RMs 164-215 will be modeled next spring to come up with a preferred plan. The short term solution included an evaluation of interim bank stabilization alternatives where 700 ft. of reduced length rock toe and brush revetment is preferred. As of this writing, due to unexpected erosion this summer a length of 1500 ft. is being considered.

November: The Big Chico Creek non-motorized boat ramp is in place and will be open for use once protection for nearby vegetation is added.

Red Bluff I-5 Bridge Repair (RM244) - Caltrans reported a planned retrofit, which will involve less tree removal than full replacement. The work will be done during low water.

Jellys Ferry Bridge (RM267) - The existing steel truss bridge was built in 1949 and was determined seismically deficient in 1998. Design of the new two lane bridge will occur in 2008 with building in 2010. Three new upstream alignments are being considered.

Shasta Ranch Mining (RM279) - this site is zoned for gravel mining and has applied for permits to mine aggregate from 268 acres of the 997 acre ranch. A tour was scheduled for November 28.

Del Rio (RM175) - This project has a Safe Harbor Agreement in place. Concern was raised by the Reclamation Board about elderberry bushes on the levees. Dan Efseaff and Scott Clemmons explained that the levee photos shown at the Reclamation Board meeting were not the levees at Del Rio and had been misrepresented as such.

For TAC meeting minutes visit www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.



Water Wise:

Q. How fast can a rain drop fall? How much evaporates?

A. A rain drop can fall so fast...7mph. Each day, the sun evaporates 1,000,000,000,000 (one trillion) tons of water (US Geological Survey).

Colusa Subreach

Landowner questions are being answered

Landowner questions and concerns are the subject of research and planning projects as part of Colusa Subreach Planning. A Fiscal and Economic Effects Analysis details how proposed public ownership and restoration of wildlife habitat will affect local government and the local economy. The results of the study were presented to the Advisory Workgroup at their November 6 meeting and comments from local officials and economic development interests have been requested.

The third public input meeting on recreation planning was held on December 4. The highlight of the meeting was the draft master plan for expansion of the Colusa-Sacramento River State Recreation Area. The Recreation Area would triple in area and the day use and camping facilities would be updated and expanded. A draft plan for recreation access to other public lands in the Subreach was also reviewed.

Hydraulic modeling is underway that will provide important information regarding the existing capacity of the floodway as well as the effects of potential wildlife habitat restoration projects. The pest and regulatory effects study includes agricultural experts and local farmers in determining how habitat restoration may affect neighboring farm lands and identifying ways to limit such impacts. The results of each of these projects will be shared at public meetings, at local libraries and online at the SRCAF website.

For further information, contact SRCAF Manager, Burt Bundy at 530-527-7411 or the TNC Project Manager, Gregg Werner at 530-897-6370x216.



Burt Bundy, SRCAF Manager, gave PowerPoint presentations to graduate Agriculture Issues classes at CSU Chico. Ag Professors Joan Hemstead and David Daily invited Burt to speak about the SRCAF and ag issues.

Upcoming TAC discussions

January 9, 2007

Safe Harbor Development

Items to be reviewed will include identifying species and area to be covered.

February 6, 2007

Tisdale Weir Channel Rehabilitation Environmental Documentation

Glenn Co. RCD Annual BBQ serves up presentations

Glenn County Resource Conservation District held their Annual Fall BBQ at Black Butte Lake. The Eagle Pass Recreation Area provided the backdrop for the October 20 program. Guest speaker Fred Thomas, CERUS Consulting, spoke about "Going Organic in the North Valley".

Lorri Pride, RCD Board of Directors President; Kandi Manhart, District Manager; and Ajay Singh, Watershed Coordinator made several presentations:

Gary Enos, Manager of Carriere and Sons farm, accepted the Conservationist of the Year honor. The farm consists of 661 acres of walnuts and 939 acres of rice in Glenn County. The progressive farming operation has evolved into a land and resource management strategy promoting sustainability and maintaining riparian corridors along the Sacramento River. These habitats are important for many threatened and endangered wildlife species, such as Swainson's Hawk and the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle. Carriere and Sons are a prime example of a sustainable, conventional agricultural operation that is improving soil, air and water quality, plant health, and the wildlife habitat.

Partner of the Year was Dennis Nay for 25 years of dedication to Natural Resources Conservation Service. Dennis is the Range Conservationist for the NRCS, Willows Service Center.

Ajay Singh, Watershed Coordinator, was also thanked for the work he did to get the RCD's first streambed alteration permit and programmatic CEQA. After joking with staff about framing the hard earned permit, he was presented with a framed copy.

For more information on the Glenn Co. RCD call (530) 934-4601 or visit their new website at www.glenncountyrcd.org.

The SRCAF 2006 Board of Directors

- Brendon Flynn, Tehama County
- Ron Warner, Tehama County
- Denny Bungarz, Glenn County
- Ben Carter, Colusa County
- Don Anderson, Glenn County
- Jane Dolan, Butte County
- Dan Gover, Shasta County
- Shirley Lewis, Butte County
- Dan Silva, Sutter County
- Lynnell Pollock, Yolo County
- Gary Evans, Colusa County

Ex-Officio Members:

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Catrina Martin, U.S. F&WS

Brandon Muncy, Corps of Engineers

Sandy Morey, Department of Fish & Game

Maureen Doherty, The Reclamation Board

Glen Pearson, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager

(530) 528-7411 bundy@water.ca.gov

Ellen Gentry, Administrative Assistant

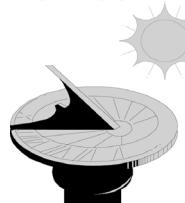
Beverley Anderson-Abbs, Resource Conservationist

Glenn Hawes ~ Chair, Shasta County
Russell Young ~ Vice Chair, Sutter County
Jim McKevitt ~ Sec./Treas., Resources Agency
Marc Faye ~ Past Chair, Yolo County

Calendar of Events

TAC meeting

January 9, 9:30a.m. to 12noon
Willows City Hall



SRCAF Board meeting

January 18, SRCAFBoard Meeting
Monday Afternoon Club, Willows

Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup meetings

February 5, 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
Colusa Industrial Properties, Colusa

Hamilton City Workgroup meeting

January 11, 10:00a.m. to 12noon
Hamilton City Firehall

Permitting & Environmental Compliance for Watershed Restoration Projects Workshop

March 20, 2007, Sacramento
for more info go to: <http://www.watershednetwork.org>



**sacramento river
conservation area
forum**
a voice for all interests

2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080